

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 3 and 7 to read as follows.

1. (Original) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
image input means for inputting an image;  
image attached information input means for inputting information attached to the  
image input by the image input means;  
face detection means for detecting a face from the image input by the image input  
means;  
face-detection angle-range information determination means for determining an angle  
range used in a process of detecting a face from the input image on the basis of the image  
attached information input by the image attached information input means; and  
process control means having a mode to control the execution of the face detecting  
process on the basis of information indicating the angle range determined by the face-detection  
angle-range information determination means.
  
2. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the process control  
means controls the execution of the face detecting process in predetermined angle increments.
  
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, further  
comprising:

image rotation means for rotating an input image,  
wherein the process control means allows the image rotation means to rotate the input  
image in order to form images in predetermined angle increments, and performs the face  
detecting process to the respective images.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, further comprising:  
reference data conversion means for converting face detection reference data used for  
face detection into reference data for a tilted face,  
wherein the process control means allows the reference data conversion means to  
convert the face detection reference data into reference data for a tilted face in order to form  
tilted-face reference data in predetermined angle increments, and executes the face detecting  
process to the input image using the formed tilted-face reference data.

5. (Original) An image processing method comprising:  
an image input step of inputting an image;  
an image attached information input step of inputting information attached to the  
image input in the image input step;  
a face detection step of detecting a face from the image input in the image input step;  
a face-detection angle-range information determination step of determining an angle  
range used in a process of detecting a face from the input image on the basis of the image  
attached information input in the image attached information input step; and

a process control step having a mode to control the execution of the face detecting process on the basis of information indicating the angle range determined in the face-detection angle-range information determination step.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein in the process control step, the execution of the face detecting process is controlled in predetermined angle increments.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 5 or 6, further comprising:  
an image rotation step of rotating an input image,  
wherein in the process control step, images are formed in predetermined angle increments by rotating the input image in the image rotation step, and the face detecting process is performed to the respective formed images.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 5 or 6, further comprising:  
a reference data conversion step of converting face detection reference data used for face detection into reference data for a tilted face,  
wherein in the process control step, tilted-face reference data is formed in predetermined angle increments by converting the face detection reference data into reference data for a tilted face in the reference data conversion step, and the face detecting process is

performed to the input image using the formed tilted-face reference data.

9. (Previously Presented) A computer-system executable program which is stored on a computer-readable medium and allows a computer system for executing the program to operate as the image processing apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2.

10. (Previously Presented) A computer-program storage medium in which a computer program is stored, the program realizing the image processing method according to Claim 5 or 6 and indicating operating procedures of steps included in the method.

11. (Previously Presented) A computer program which is stored on a computer-readable medium for realizing the image processing method according to Claim 5 or 6 and indicating operating procedures of steps included in the method.